

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4.00PM 8th FEBRUARY 2012 AT COUNCIL

Date & Time:	Wednesday 8 th February 2012, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Venue:	Hartley Building Meeting Room, Lithgow City Council 180 Mort Street
Meeting Purpose:	Lithgow Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
Chair:	Trish Kidd
Guest Speakers:	Nil
Present:	Councilor Col Hunter, Councilor Neville Castle, Fiona Joy, Helen Drewe, Jeff Thurlow, Sue Graves, Trish Kidd (Chair), Andrew Muir, Matthew Brewster, Peta Lette, Samantha Champion (Secretary)
Apologies:	Ian Milliss, Peter Evans, Thomas Ebersoll
Confirmation of Previous Minutes 14th December 2011:	The minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting of 14 December 2011 and were formally ratified at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 23 January 2012.
Moved: Neville Castle	Seconded: Sue Graves

ITEM 1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Date	Item No.	Issue	Recommended Action	LEAC Response

ITEM 2 FARMERS CREEK TRACK AND TRAIL NETWORK FUNDING APPLICATION

Matthew Brewster prepared an application for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities 2011-12 Biodiversity Fund for the project Connecting Streams Project - Restoring Lithgow's Riparian Biodiversity. The Connecting Streams Project is a transformational scale 6 year partnership program that creates new knowledge, builds community capacity and delivers key "on the ground" actions to protect, enhance and connect riparian biodiversity within two significant subcatchments within the Lithgow region. The project will identify and remove threats to biodiversity generated by the urban and rural land uses along Farmers Creek and the River Lett which are being transmitted down stream to impact on Sydney's drinking water catchment and across adjacent National Park lands. Extensive new biodiverse plantings along with habitat creation will reconnect these streams to these surrounding high biodiversity areas. The funding application is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee:

1. Congratulate Matthew Brewster on the high quality funding application he has prepared.

2. Commend word of the funding application to the Federal Member for Calare, John Cobb.

**ITEM 3 DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL POSITION
DESCRIPTION FOR COUNCIL WITH CONSIDERATION TO
LOCAL NEEDS AND ISSUES**

The development of an environmental position description was discussed during a brainstorming session held prior to the meeting between 2.30pm and 4.00pm.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee hold an extraordinary meeting in one month's time to further address issues and develop a draft position description and discuss holding talks with possible sponsors and the general manager.

ITEM 4 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

A Sustainable Schools Newsletter published by Bathurst Regional Council was presented to the meeting and suggested that Lithgow City Council develop a similar publication.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee write to all the schools in the Local Government Area to ascertain their interest in developing a similar newsletter.

ITEM 5 HISTORIC ITEMS

It was suggested that a status table be provided to each meeting as was done in the past.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee present a status table of outstanding items to each meeting which are removed once resolved.

ITEM 6 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LEA COMMITTEE

Peta has previously distributed the Terms of Reference for the LEA Committee for comment but no responses were received from the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee reword the Terms of Reference and provide to the Committee two weeks prior to the next ordinary meeting for comment.

ITEM 7 LETTER TO DAVID DURIE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Trish provided the Committee with a draft letter to David Durie thanking him for his contribution to the Environmental Advisory Committee over the past five years, as resolved at the meeting of 14 December 2011.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee place the letter to David Durie on letterhead for the signature of the Chairperson and Mayor and a copy be provided to the General Manager.

**ITEM 8 UPDATE ON LAKE PILLANS WORKS (INFRASTRUCTURE,
WEED MANAGEMENT, SIGNAGE)**

Trish provided an update that Lake Pillans works are progressing but are behind schedule.

ITEM 9 HASSANS WALLS RESERVE DOWNHILL BIKE TRACKS

Helen provided a clarification of the downhill bike tracks on Hassans Walls Reserve. She advised that there are currently both legal and illegal tracks operating. One track is legal with valid development consent. There is currently another proposed mountain bike/walking trail development application with Council but it does not yet have consent to operate. One illegal track is currently being used, running parallel to the legal track which contains dangerous structures and should be made inoperable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council's Group Manager Operations be made aware of the 'illegal track' for a risk and safety assessment.

ITEM 10 LITHGOW WALKING TRACK & BIKE TRAIL NETWORK

For response to the next meeting.

ITEM 11 LCC CURRENT GRANT APPLICATION

Discussed in Item 2.

ITEM 12 LCC PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION

Discussed in Item 2.

ITEM 13 WEED MANAGEMENT IN THE LITHGOW LGA

It was noted that the control authority for noxious weeds is Upper Macquarie County Council and it doesn't account for environmental weed management. It was also noted that a booklet was produced in approximately 2008/2009 and the Committee wish to obtain a copy which can be collectively reviewed and then reprinted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee make a submission to upcoming budgetary process for an allocation of \$20,000 for the eradication of prioritised and specific environmental weeds in consultation with Upper Macquarie County Council.

ITEM 14 ENVIRONMENTAL POSITION DESCRIPTION

Discussed in Item 3.

ITEM 15 HASSANS WALLS RESERVE – PLANNING AND PROGRESS STATUS (REQUEST FOR UPDATE IF POSSIBLE)

A Draft Flora & Fauna Survey of Hassans Walls Lookout Area has been prepared by Epacris Environmental Consultants. Council has currently advertised for Expressions of Interest for the Boardwalk Design & Construction and any works will require either a Development Application or Part 5 Assessment. It was also suggested that the signage at the Northern Entry location should be relocated further back (for referral to Group Manager Operations).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee:

1. Provide the Committee & Lithgow Tidy Towns with a copy of the Flora & Fauna Survey when available.
2. Public exhibition and consultation occur.
3. Take a submission to Council for an allocation of \$5,000 for roadside erosion control and weed eradication at Hassans Walls.

ITEM 16 COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATE

Nil

ITEM 17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

ITEM 18 CLOSE OF MEETING

MEETING CLOSED 6.00pm.

Next meeting dates:

Extraordinary – 14th March 2012 at 3.00pm

Ordinary – 11th April 2012 at 4.00pm